

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH May 27, 2008

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. High School Cafeteria. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Frank Maher; Mary Walsh; William Munroe; and Robert Bollengier. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; and Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar were present. Student Member Katherine Matook was absent.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Clerk Coutcher read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – In response to nurse teacher/Exeter parent Christine McGrane's questions relating to the Capital Project Building Committee and the Capital Bond Project as presented to the State, Chair DeSack advised that she is awaiting a legal opinion regarding if the School Committee has the authority to override decisions made by the Building Committee, and that the impending projects stated in

the Bond approved by the state do not involve precise requirements as far as how a particular project is to be addressed. Chair DeSack said that the Building Committee will meet this Thursday and at that time will make its decision regarding Metcalf School's gymnasium floor repair/replacement.

PRESENTATION –Student Member Report –None

Local Advisory Committee Update – Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar introduced lead Local Advisory Committee Member Mary Beth Cournoyer to explain what the LAC has done this year and to talk about the by-laws. Ms. Cournoyer referenced the LAC 07/08 Annual Report and said that the by-laws need to be reviewed each year. She gave an overview of the LAC's operating procedures, membership, duties, responsibilities, goals, and accomplishments. She said that leadership team members, (Ms. Cournoyer, Anne Peters, and Paula Connolly) continue to coordinate four committee meetings and two workshops per year. Ms. Cournoyer said that she has had an open level of communications all year with Dr. Geismar and currently the team has no suggestions for him. Vice Chair Cicero asked questions, made recommendations, and gave information to Ms. Cournoyer relating to the Board of Regents NEW Graduation Requirements that will become effective on July 1, 2008 and she recommended that parents attend the June 5th Board of Regents meeting. Ms. Cicero asked questions about LAC's relationship with the RI Special Advisory Committee. Chair DeSack advised that the

School Committee will pass around the by-laws for members to review and, once signed, will return the signature page to Ms. Farrar.

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Special Population Presentation – Director of Administration Carmella Farrar said that she will give a brief overview about important new R.I. regulations that were finally approved, changes in the areas of speech and language services, the Extended School Year - (ESY), students placed in private schools by their parents, personnel/staffing plan and district policy. She gave an outline of the Special Education End of Year Report 2007 – 2008 and answered members' questions regarding duplicate student files that are now strategically located in locked cabinets at each school building, Special Education Staff Professional Development, Co-Teaching Training, a planned Parent Workshop with David Kane; presenter on new regulations, ELL students, referrals/enrollment population totals, and the Board of Regents NEW Graduation Requirements. In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry, Ms. Farrar invited him to make an appointment to meet with her to review details concerning the District Risk Ratios by Disability & Race data. Ms. Farrar advised that she anticipates addressing the School Committee this fall regarding implementing district policy - personnel/staffing plan. Chair DeSack asked Ms. Farrar to meet with the policy subcommittee to discuss this matter. Chair DeSack requested the committee be

provided with a breakout of additional costs associated with Professional Development and a list of the junior high school teachers that attended a workshop last Friday.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar reviewed the consent agenda.

Superintendent Geismar answered Member Bollengier's question relating to why the district would recall a teacher and then grant her request for a leave of absence. Chair DeSack confirmed that the Superintendent is following proper procedure.

Member Bollengier moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 - 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2008; Executive Session Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2008

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Craig Main as Sr. High School Varsity Head Boys' Basketball Coach, effective for the 2008 – 2009 season

2. Leaves of Absence – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Letter from Karen Robinson requesting an unpaid leave of absence from her position as 1.0 FTE Sr. High School Science/Chemistry Teacher, effective for the 2008 – 2009 school year

3. Resignations – (ENCLOSED) – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with Regret)

a. Letter of Resignation from Barbara Wilmot and Helen King from their positions as Sr. High Student Council Co-Advisors, effective June 2008

b. Letter of Resignation from Merrily Wilbur, from her position as 1.0 FTE Elementary Guidance Counselor, for the purpose of Retirement, effective June 2008

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

a. See Enclosed May 27, 2008 Initial Recall List

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$477,970.90

D. Home School Approvals

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1)May 15, 2008 EWGRSD Discipline Report 2007-2008; (2) May 15, 2008 EWG Sr. High School Discipline Report; (3) May 1, 2008 – H239 State of RI House Resolution; (4) EWGRSD Building Committee 07/08 Membership List

Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS – Policies – Review and Adoption - #6250 – Sexual Harassment – Employees – Amendment;# 6251 – Prohibited Fraternization between Employees and Students – Amendment;# 8506 – Suspension and Expulsion – Amendment;# 8513 – Bullying and Hazing – Amendment;# 8514 – Sexual Harassment – Students – Amendment – Superintendent Geismar said that the five listed policies are being modified to align with the amendments to Policy #8516. The policy subcommittee recommended that the following phrase is added to each of these policies: “If such notification leads to a police investigation, the principal shall ensure that any police interrogation of students on school premises is conducted in accordance with school committee Policy 8516: Police Investigations on School Premises.”

Vice Chair Cicero moved to add the (previously mentioned) phrase to all of the listed policies – 6250, 6251, 8506, 8513, and 8514. Seconded by Member Bollengier.

Voted 6 – 1 in favor. Member Munroe voted no.

Jr. High School SALT Visit Team Report – Principal Thompson informed members that he has received notification that he can share the Pre-Release EWG Jr. High School SALT Visit Team Report with the School Committee and Administration, however; until the visiting

committee signs the Report and then a three-day press embargo ends, it can not be shared with the press. Member Bollengier pointed out that since this is a public

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meeting, this item should not be on the agenda. Chair DeSack advised that this discussion needs to be tabled until the next meeting when it can be discussed in a public forum.

Fair Funding Formula Discussion – Superintendent Geismar reminded members that he recently emailed them regarding an Act introduced by Representatives from Providence regarding a fair and fundable formula for schools. He said he questions the fairness of this Act to districts like Exeter-West Greenwich. Dr Geismar reported that he testified last Thursday at a hearing held by the House Finance Committee regarding the Fair Funding Formula. He said that most individuals that testified were there to express their opinion that this is not the best way to move forward. He said that he has heard this act is not well received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies – Review and Adoption - #8516 – Police Investigations on School Premises – Adoption – Vice Chair Cicero moved to approve Policy 8516. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 5 – 2 in favor. Members Munroe and Bollengier voted no.

Member Bollengier gave two reasons for voting no. 1) He does not like the policy. 2) He still has not seen the supposed West Greenwich Police Department policy relating to interrogating students.

Chair DeSack requested to send a letter to the West Greenwich Police Department asking them to outline their process. In response to Member Munroe's recommendation to notify parents that they may have reason to be concerned, Chair DeSack said that this item has been on the agenda for months and, if need be, the committee can amend the policy in the future. Chair DeSack requested to add a copy of the letter and/or West Greenwich Police Department's response to the next regular meeting agenda.

Capital Project Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross gave members an update on the Capital Project. He reported that a pre-bid meeting was held one-week ago and that legal advice is being sought after regarding concerns relating to the pre-bid process. Mr. Ross said that at its last meeting, the Building Committee took action to appoint Director of Maintenance William Plumley to the Building Committee. Mr. Ross and Superintendent Geismar both expressed concerns that this puts Mr. Plumley in a position where he might be a deciding vote on the Building Committee. Dr. Geismar said that he would direct Mr. Plumley to be in attendance at all Building Committee meetings. In response to Chair DeSack's inquiry, Mr. Ross gave details relating to issues about the concerns surrounding the pre-bid opening/reading process.

Copier Contract Award – Director of Administration Robert Ross recommended delaying the photocopier contract award at this time. He said that he is in the process of obtaining a new revised price quote from IKON and a new price quote from another

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vendor on the national bid list, RICOH. Mr. Ross said that he will bring his recommendation forward at the June 10, 2008 School Committee meeting.

Board of Regents Proposed NEW Graduation Requirements – Member Bollengier asked Chair DeSack to have the minutes reflect that he will step out of the room. He said that he must remove himself from any discussion on this and he needs the minutes to reflect such. (8:08 p.m.)

Vice Chair Cicero updated members and gave an overview of the Board of Regents work session that she and SIT members attended last week. She expressed her opinion that she felt as if it was the Boards' very first meeting, there were more questions than answers, and that Commissioner McWalters and the Board of Regents have different ideas. She reported that Commissioner McWalters said that 50% of districts can not align to NECAP, (example - geometry and trigonometry are tested in the junior year which involves questions

that students have not learned yet). Vice Chair Cicero said that the Commissioner also said that if NECAP results as a graduation requirement was implemented right now, 80% of the students in Providence would not graduate and the NEW Requirements do not take into account IEP's, (Individual Educational Plans). Vice Chair gave her opinion that the Board would be impulsive and irresponsible to vote for the NEW requirements. She speculated that Governor Carcieri is pressuring to make it happen and he is not fully understanding the impact that the NEW Graduation Requirements - exclusively page 7, will have on students and on districts. In response to one Regents member's statement that failing students are given a second chance to take the NECAP, Vice Chair Cicero said, there is not a plan in place on how to help a student to do better and that students would only get one more chance in his/her senior year to retake the NECAP. She reported that Judge Flanders gave the following scenarios...A student works hard and does well for four-year but that student's NECAP scores are low – student does not graduate; a student's performance is poor for four-years but scores well on the NECAP – student will graduate. Vice Chair Cicero said that SIT is working hard to educate parents and that they are accepting letters from parents to forward to the Board. She reminded everyone of the upcoming meeting on June 5th at 5:00 p.m. at the BOR, 5th floor, Shepard Building, Providence. Chair DeSack said that letters of nonsupport have been sent out to the BOR and Commissioner McWalters on behalf of the School Committee and that Vice Chair Cicero has a petition for signatures. Vice Chair Cicero took questions

from parent audience members and she encouraged them to address their questions to the BOR.

Health Care Discussion – Director of Administration Robert Ross told members he has not received a quote from United Health yet. Chair DeSack said there is nothing to discuss at this point.

Member Bollengier returned to the meeting at this time, (8:20 p.m.).

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Chair DeSack updated Member Bollengier that there was nothing to discuss relating to the Health Care agenda item.

REPORTS/COMMENTS –

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Thursday, May 29, 2008-Honors Night; Friday, May 30-Sunday, June 1, 2008-Sr. High Drama Production; Friday, May 30, 2008-Semi Formal Dance Sr. High; Wednesday, June 4, 2008-Class Day; Thursday, June 5, 2008-Senior Cruise; Saturday, June 7, 2008-Graduation Day; Tuesday, June 10, 2008-School Committee Meeting; Monday, June 15, 2008-Last Day of School; Monday, June 15, 2008-8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony; Tuesday, June 24, 2008-School Committee Meeting-(Facilities Presentation)

In response to Chair DeSack's inquiry, Member Maher, Clerk Coutcher, and Vice Chair Cicero said they will attend Honors Night. Member Bollengier said he will arrive late. Members Maher and Bollengier said they will attend graduation.

Member Bollengier made a point of clarification regarding agenda item, Jr. High School SALT Visit Team Report which was tabled to two weeks out. He said the committee should move to seal the SALT report.

Member Bollengier moved to seal the Jr. High School SALT Visit Team Report. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – None

ADJOURNMENT – Member Maher moved to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 - 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:25 p.m.

**ROBIN CERIO
CLERK**